

REGISTER OF CLASSIFICATION DECISIONS

Date of entry in Register: 17 March 1998
 Name of applicant/court: Comptroller of Customs
 Applicant to the Labelling Body: Not Applicable
 Title of Publication: Thirty Day Trial / Billie's First Time / Untitled
 Other Known Titles: Thirty Day Trial / Billies First Time / Bright Moments
 Director: Not Stated
 Producer: Not Stated
 Publisher: Not Applicable
 Author: Not Applicable
 Format: Video Recording VHS/NTSC
 Country of Origin: USA
 Language: English

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Components of film originally examined:

Feature:	Thirty Day Trial	Running time:	62.22
	Billie's First Time		55.15
	Untitled		40.40
Trailers:	Nil	Running time:	
		Total Running time:	158.17

Excision/Alteration: Yes.

Reason(s) for Excision:

One excision is required to remove the entire feature entitled *Billie's First Time*. The feature is dominated by degrading depictions of a man bound in various sadomasochistic positions, in obvious pain and discomfort. The titillating nature of the publication derives from the man's pain and discomfort.

Approved components of film after excision:

Feature:	Thirty Day Trial	Running time:	62.22
	Untitled		40.40
Trailers:	Nil	Running time:	
		Total Amended Running time:	103.02

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Classification Decision:

Objectionable except if the availability of the publication is restricted to persons who have attained the age of 18 years.

Display Conditions:

Nil.

Descriptive Note:

Contains explicit sex scenes.

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Direction to issue a label has not been given.

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SUMMARY OF THE REASONS FOR DECISION:

The video recording entitled *Thirty Day Trial / Billie's First Time / Untitled* is classified as:

Objectionable except if the availability of the publication is restricted to persons who have attained the age of 18 years.

The video recording contains explicit depictions of sadomasochistic sexual activity. It contains three features which include the sadomasochistic sexual activity of men being bound in various positions. Masturbation and anal intercourse are also featured. The video recording contains depictions of degrading sexual conduct and conduct in which sexual satisfaction is derived from the infliction and suffering of pain. Although all three features contain depictions of the same activities, there is a significant difference in the manner in which they are presented.

The feature entitled *Billie's First Time* is dominated by prolonged depictions of a bound man. The camera focuses on the man's pain and discomfort in a manner which is highly degrading to him. This prolonged focus upon the man's pain and discomfort becomes the predominant and titillating aspect of the feature. Although the other two features contain some depictions which focus on the men's discomfort, those depictions are significantly shorter than, and not as focused upon, as those in *Billie's First Time*. The intensity of the depictions in *Billie's First Time* is such that it amounts to the video recording degrading the man to a significant degree. Excision is recommended of the entire feature entitled *Billie's First Time*. The owner of the publication has agreed to the excision.

Section 14 of the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990 does apply to this publication. However, the extent, manner and degree to which the man is degraded in *Billie's First Time* is such that the inclusion of that feature amounts to the publication being objectionable. The Classification Office considers that the likely injury to the public good that could be caused by the availability of the publication outweighs the considerations of freedom of expression. The explicitness of the remaining scenes of sadomasochistic sexual activity and degrading sexual conduct and sexual satisfaction derived from inflicting and suffering pain means that the availability of the publication would be likely to be injurious to the public good if not restricted to an adult audience.

OFLC Ref: 9601561